

# Standards and Assessment Update — 2000

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## Questions and Answers about National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

### **Is NAEP testing required for certain schools and grades, or is it optional?**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a national program, and participating schools are selected on a random basis by national experts to participate in NAEP. Subjects included in the NAEP assessment have already been scheduled through 2010. The grades that are assessed for the national NAEP include grades four and eight. You may find the NAEP Assessment schedule (subject areas and grades) at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

Currently, California schools voluntarily participate in NAEP. However, it is necessary for 70 percent of the schools identified in the random selection process to test their students, or California's data will not be valid. As long as we have a successful recruitment process, participation will remain voluntary. If we are unable to get adequate voluntary participation, participation may become mandatory.